



VISIBLE
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Eastover Elementary

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To the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning,

My name is Christine Tang, teacher at Eastover Elementary School. I am writing this letter on behalf of Nancy Conn, whom I have had the pleasure of working with for over 10 years. I have seen, first hand, Nancy's strengths as a teacher, leader, and educational technology advocate, which is why I wholeheartedly nominate her for the 2014 MACUL PK-12 Technology Using Teacher of the Year Award.

While Eastover students and their families all know about what an amazing teacher Senora Conn is, many of them may not know about all of the hard work that she puts in "behind the scenes" to promote the use of educational technology in our school and in our school district. Staff members, on the other hand, are well aware of Nancy's role as an educational technology trailblazer and she has gained a great deal of respect from across our school district for her work.

Teaching children and teaching adults/peers require very different skill sets. Nancy Conn is an educator that does both exceptionally well. In addition to being an excellent classroom teacher, Nancy has a reputation for providing excellent professional development opportunities for her peers. Currently, Nancy serves as our school Technology Cohort Leader. She was chosen for this role because of her exemplary use of educational technology in the classroom and because she is so effective mentoring her peers. As Tech Cohort Leader, Nancy is responsible for providing professional development and ongoing support for other teachers in the building. The teachers in the technology cohort are typically our most resistant and/or least confident with technology. She helps them with their use of the Promethean Board, social media, their websites, Activotes, etc. According to staff feedback and based upon my own personal observations, I can attest to the fact that Nancy's sessions are always both informative and motivational. Even the most technology-phobic teachers leave her cohort sessions eager to try new things in their classrooms. When teachers work with Nancy, they feel empowered, they feel safe, and they are more willing to take risks. She provides the right amount of scaffolding and encouragement to help her peers to find meaningful ways to use educational technology in their classrooms.

Part of what makes Nancy a great technology mentor is that she is so comfortable with multiple types of technology. She uses existing websites and apps on a regular basis, but also knows how to create her own Promethean flip charts, videos, websites, and much more. Part of Nancy's strength as an educational technology teacher is that she always uses the right type of technology for the particular lesson or objective she wants to cover and always manages to find creative, but meaningful uses for integrating technology into her lessons. She knows how to choose or create the medium that fits best with the content that she is covering and the developmental abilities of the age group she is working with. Unlike a typical classroom teacher, Nancy, as our school Spanish teacher, has to teach all of the



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students in our school. This means that she teaches Spanish to students in kindergarten through 4th graders and two special needs classrooms. Somehow, despite our diverse student population, Nancy is always able to find the right type of technology to use with her students and use it in a way that keeps them engaged and learning.

Nancy's reputation as an educational technology leader extends beyond our school building. She is known district-wide as an educational technology advocate and is well respected all across Bloomfield Hills Schools. Whenever the district is experimenting with something or is launching a new pilot program, Nancy is always the first to volunteer. You can always count on her to dive right in and give new things a try. She was part of the iPad pilot program in our district, was one of the first members of the Tech Team, and was also the first in our district to use the Promethean/Smart Board technology in her classroom. In fact, Nancy's amazing use of the Promethean technology in her classroom was so remarkable that it prompted the district to invest in Promethean Boards in every classroom for the entire school district.

Almost a decade ago, when Nancy first witnessed the power of a Promethean Board at a conference, she immediately began researching and lobbying for a Promethean Board in her classroom. Once the school Parent Teacher Organization agreed to provide the funding for the board and once other teachers started to see her success with it, word spread throughout the district and soon, she was presenting in front of board members, administrators, and our superintendent. Nancy's initiative, passion, and enthusiasm is the reason why every classroom in our school district is now equipped with a Promethean Board.

Nancy Conn is truly an educational technology pioneer and is most deserving of this distinguished honor. She is a lifelong learner and sets the standard for using educational technology in our building and in our district. I urge you to seriously consider her nomination.

Sincerely,

Christine Shay Tang